



AUSTRIAN
ACADEMY OF
SCIENCES

JUNE 19, 2023
START: 14:00
AUSTRIAN ACADEMY OF SCIENCES
DR. IGNAZ SEIPEL-PLATZ 2
1010 VIENNA, AUSTRIA



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INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM

GLOBAL CHANGE, SUSTAINABILITY, AND HUMAN WELL-BEING

EXPLORING RESEARCH CONTRIBUTIONS TO URGENT SOCIETAL CHALLENGES

The latest IPCC and UNDP reports leave no doubt: human well-being is seriously endangered, if profound changes do not happen quickly. The path towards the Sustainable Development Goals is far from being clear. At the symposium, speakers and participants will explore the current state of research on and pathways to a sustainable society in an interdisciplinary setting, taking environmental justice as well as the role of media in times of crisis into particular consideration. An interactive format will allow for in-depth discussions of research gaps and help identify paths for research to contribute more effectively to the well-being of planet and people.

PLEASE REGISTER AT

www.oeaw.ac.at/veranstaltungen/ anmeldung/international-symposium-2023

PROGRAM

14:00

Welcome and Introduction

Ulrike Diebold | Vice President of the Austrian Academy of Sciences

Verena Winiwarter | Full member of the Austrian Academy of Sciences

14:15

Impulse Presentations & Discussions

Moderation:

Simone Gingrich | Member of the Young Academy, Austrian Academy of Sciences

Matthias Huss | Professorship for Glaciology, ETH Zurich
"Mountains as the Ambassadors of Climate Change"

Climate change affects the entire planet Earth in various ways. However, rapid and accelerating shifts become exacerbated in mountain regions. The changes in snow and glaciers at high elevation are one of the most visible and widely understandable signs of the climate crisis. They are the source of a suite of consequences at the local to the global scale that are of concern for livelihood in Alpine countries and worldwide. These impacts range from rockfall and flood hazards, touristic activities, changes in the hydrological cycle and corresponding consequences for ecology, to sea-level rise.

Keywan Riahi | Program Director and Principal Research Scholar, Energy, Climate, and Environment Program, International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA)
"Rapid Systems Transformations for Addressing Global Sustainability Challenges"

Climate change and sustainable development are among the most pressing challenges of our time, requiring rapid and unprecedented transformations in the way we live, work, and consume resources. Achieving these goals requires a systemic perspective to understand how individual preferences and choices are embedded within social norms and shaped by available infrastructure and technological options. This talk

will focus on insights from transformation pathways and discuss how novel service provisioning systems and granular technologies may accelerate diffusion, increase innovation and learning potential, democratize access to services, and bring societal co-benefits. Emphasis will be also on trade-offs and the importance of justice and equity. A bottom-up perspective on well-being is presented, which permits to better understand energy, material, and other resource requirements for a decent living for all. Finally, the role of digitalization and disruptive end-use innovations are discussed, and critical research gaps and opportunities for interdisciplinary collaborations are identified.

Julia Mildorfova Leventon | Head, Department of the Human Dimensions of Global Change, CzechGlobe
“Leverage Points for Sustainability Transformations: Reflexive systems thinking for creating purposeful change”

Systems thinking contributes to creating purposeful change towards sustainability. Using examples from research and practice, I will: show how leverage points and systems thinking can be applied to target intervention activities and to exploring pathways of change; highlight the scope and limits of these interventions; and consider the role and positionality of research. I will point out a set of reflexive questions to help guide research contributions towards tackling sustainability challenges.

Irene Neverla | Professor for Journalism and Communication studies, University of Hamburg
“Half a Century of Climate Change Communication in the Media: Quite some coverage, little impact, wrong approaches?”

Climate Scientists went public from the 1970s onwards. In many (Western) countries, journalism has covered the topic quite from the beginning, obviously with limited impact on politics, stakeholders and the public. What was the journalistic approach? How does the public perceive journalistic coverage and what do they expect? Would social media platforms make a difference? Do street protests have a comeback in public discourses?

COFFEE BREAK

16:00 **Interactive Circle Session**

17:00 **Reflections**

Helga Weisz | Head, FutureLab “Social Metabolism & Impacts”, Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research (PIK)

17:25 **Closing Remarks**

Andrea Fischer | Full Member of the Austrian Academy of Sciences

Following this symposium, there will be a public evening event (in German) starting at 18:00

Wissenschaftskepsis als Hürde für eine nachhaltige Entwicklung?

Matthias Karmasin | Full Member of the Austrian Academy of Sciences and Director of the Institute for Comparative Media and Communication Studies (CMC)

Andrea Fronaschütz | Chief Operating Officer, Gallup Institut Austria

Helga Weisz | Head, FutureLab “Social Metabolism & Impacts”, Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research (PIK)

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